

**Massachusetts Workforce Development Board**  
**Board Committee Updates**  
*January – March, 2017*

<b>Economic Opportunity Committee</b>
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The Economic Opportunity Committee has spent the first two meetings of 2017 gaining a deeper understanding of the Workforce Competitiveness Trust Fund (WCTF) and the Career Readiness Initiative programs, moving toward identifying discrete tasks and goals the committee would like to pursue over the year.

Workforce Competitiveness Trust Fund (WCTF) – The committee received in in-depth orientation to the WCTF, including the background and outcomes of this demand-driven strategy that invests in training and education partnerships to train unemployed and underemployed workers for jobs that are in demand. The committee discussed being engaged in the FY 18 WCTF funding that specifically focuses on the Committee’s target populations (African Americans/Blacks, Hispanics/Latinos, Native Americans, People with Disabilities, and Veterans). The committee has discussed working with Commonwealth Corporation to analyze the proposals for FY 18 round, and identifying needs and strategies to build system capacity for demand-driven partnerships focused on the target populations. The committee will likely use the knowledge gained from the FY 18 round to formulate recommendations for future funding opportunities.

Career Readiness Initiative – The committee gained an in-depth understanding of this statewide, multi-agency initiative to enhance work readiness skills and improve employment outcomes for low-skilled and/or unemployed individuals, including progress and outcomes to date. The committee will help to inform CRI strategies for employer engagement, as well as sustainability beyond the three-year pilot period.

**Co-Chairs:** Aixa Beauchamp & Anne Broholm

**Members:** Jesse Brown, Jerry Burke, Tricia Canavan, James Cassetta, Sherry Dong, Eileen Donoghue, Carol Ozelius, Warren Pepicelli, Joseph Wagner, Beth Williams

**2017 Meeting Dates:** April 12<sup>th</sup>, May 15<sup>th</sup>, July 12<sup>th</sup>, August (TBD), October 11<sup>th</sup>, November 8<sup>th</sup>; meeting times are 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

## Labor Market and Workforce Information Committee

The Labor Market and Workforce Information (LMWI) Committee met via conference call for their January and February meetings. Members of the committee received updates on initiatives related to LMWI including Regional Planning.

The group reviewed an updated version of the Labor Supply and Demand Dashboards in anticipation of presenting a finished draft to the full board at the March 7<sup>th</sup> Quarterly Meeting. The group continued to refine the dashboard by identifying key data elements to be included, as well as include a Glossary of Terms to guide the interpretation of the data.

The group also briefly discussed the importance of a regional lens in opportunities for growth as well as deep dives into particular industries within that regional context.

The next meetings will focus on the regional and occupational “deep dives”, as well as refining the LMWI dashboard.

**Co-Chairs:** Pam Eddinger & Joanne Pokaski

**Members:** Joanne Berwald, Eric Hagopian, Susan Mailman, Beth Mitchell, Elizabeth Skidmore

**2017 Meeting Dates:** April 20<sup>th</sup>, May 18<sup>th</sup>, July 20<sup>th</sup>, August 17<sup>th</sup>, October 19<sup>th</sup>, November 16<sup>th</sup>; meeting times are 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

## WIOA Oversight Committee

The WIOA Oversight Committee met in January during which members received updates on WIOA implementation technical assistance efforts, the Local Workforce Board Certification, and the One-Stop Career Center Selection process. Since the committee meeting, the Board has received one appeal disputing the outcome of the One-Stop Career Center selection process. Members of the WIOA Oversight Committee will be adjudicating this appeal on behalf of the State Workforce Board.

The committee was also updated on workforce system performance dashboard by Jesse Cohen, who is working to build a performance dashboard for the Board as part of his graduate program capstone project. Board members will be briefed on the development of the dashboard at the full Board’s Quarterly meeting on March 7<sup>th</sup>.

Members were also briefed on the Regional Planning Process which will be underway this spring, and discussed the role of the State Workforce Board in this effort.

**Chair:** Secretary Ronald Walker, II

**Members:** Joanne Berwald, Donna Cupelo, Cassius Johnson, Robert LePage, Juliette Mayers, Juan Vega, Raymond Wrobel

**2017 Meeting Dates:** April 18<sup>th</sup>, May 16<sup>th</sup>, July 18<sup>th</sup>, August 15<sup>th</sup>, October 17<sup>th</sup>, November 21<sup>st</sup>; meeting times are 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

<b>Youth Committee</b>
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Members of the Youth Committee convened in February in Boston. Committee Chair Cassius Johnson proposed that the Youth Committee pursue a multi-year initiative to improve connections between youth who are out-of-school/work and Massachusetts employers in need of talent to fill jobs. The initiative would aim to do this by first, catalyzing employer demand for youth talent through a statewide campaign to shift employer perspective to see these youth as viable part of their talent pipeline solution. The campaign would use existing creative assets from an existing national effort. The initiative would also include efforts to improve the supply of prepared talent by spotlighting and recognizing successful youth training providers as well as employers that have successfully expanded their talent pipelines, providing technical assistance and support to improve practices among providers and employers, and state policy changes to ensure training providers being supported by WIOA funds address employers talent needs and deliver on outcomes.

The full Board will receive a briefing of the initiative at the March 7<sup>th</sup> Quarterly Meeting. The committee agreed to pursue the initiative (pending full Board support), and began to identify requisite stakeholders to engage, the resources needed to be effective, as well as a reasonable timeline to launch the campaign and offer technical assistance. Moving forward committee work will be focused on developing and executing the initiative.

**Chair:** Cassius Johnson

**Members:** Kristin Broadley, Kathleen Cullen-Cote, Driscoll DoCanto, John Mann

**2017 Meeting Dates:** April 13<sup>th</sup>, May 4<sup>th</sup>, July 6<sup>th</sup>, August 3<sup>rd</sup>, October 5<sup>th</sup>, November 2<sup>nd</sup>; meeting times are 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon